

PERFORATING OF CURRENT STAMPS

ALASTAIR WALTER has been making some enquiries about the purchase and use of new perforating machines by members of the public.

His first enquiry was to Checkpoint-Sloper and his answer, after a five week wait, was that they charge 44p per sheet - plus postage, package and VAT, with a minimum charge of £25. They do not sell machines - in fact they said it was illegal to perforate stamps in this way but that they were specially licensed by Royal Warrant to

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do so. There was no indication in this letter as to whether there was a charge for making the die for any customer on top of the 44p per sheet etc.

Alastair's answer from his enquiry to the Royal Mail was equally dilatory. After another five week delay, he was told that it is perfectly legal for anyone to perforate stamps. One qualification however, was that the holes should be no larger than those dividing the stamps. A condition of which I was not aware!

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